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*Agave virginica*

[Synonyms : *Agave lata*, *Agave tigrina*, *Agave virginiana*, *Agave virginiana* var. *tigrina*, *Allibertia intermedia*, *Manfreda tigrina*, *Manfreda virginica*, *Manfreda virginica* var. *tigrina*, *Polianthes lata*, *Polianthes virginica*]

**FALSE ALOE** is a succulent perennial. Native to south-eastern North America it has fragrant greenish-yellow flowers..

It is also known as American aloe, Rattlesnake-master, and Virginian agave.

*Virginica* means 'of or from Virginia (United States)' which itself was named after the English 'Virgin Queen' Elizabeth I (1533-1603).

A root extract of this species was used medicinally by North American Indian tribes for treating wind and stomach disorders. The Cherokee tribe prescribed the root for easing diarrhoea, worms and some liver problems, while the Catawba took a root infusion for fluid retention. It was also used as an antidote for snake bites especially by the Catawba and Seminole Indian tribes – and particularly for those of rattlesnakes by the Cherokee Indians.

Today it is still used in folk medicine, particularly for external application to burns and bruises.